for the purpose of employment overseas. The number of doctors and technocrats working overseas is not available since they are not required to seek emigration clearance for employment overseas.

(b) Overseas employment of Indian citizens is governed by the Emigration Act, 1983. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the major countries of destination such as the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Jordan and Malaysia for protection and welfare of Indian workers. Bilateral Social Security Agreements have been signed with Belgium, France and Germany and are also being pursued with other countries of destination of protect the interest of Indian professionals.

Schemes for NRIs and PIOs

1108. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes being run for NRIs and Person of Indian Origin Citizens in different countries;

(b) whether any get-together programme for them is organised in Embassies;

(c) if so, the names of the countries where such programmes are organised; and

(d) the names of the festivals which are organized in the Embassies for said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The following schemes are the major schemes in operation for NRIs and PIOs in different countries.

1. Overseas Citizenship of India;
2. PIO cards;
3. Know India Programme;
4. Tracing the Roots;
5. Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children;
6. Scheme for giving legal assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses;
7. Indian Community Welfare Fund.

(b) to (d) All Indian missions/posts organize get togethers on national days and some other Indian festivals. The overseas Indians take part in such functions. Deepawali, Holi, Id-ul-fitr and Christmas are among the festivals organized by the Indian missions/posts abroad. In addition, get togethers of overseas Indians are also organized from time to time during visits of important dignitaries from India.